

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1        1 (Currently Amended). A method for the formation of dynamic alliances  
2        between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific  
3        market opportunities comprising the steps of:  
4                receiving ~~a~~ an initial request for proposal from a customer;  
5                translating the request for proposal into demanded capabilities;  
6                matching demanded capabilities with registered vendor capabilities;  
7                ~~to generate~~ generating a plurality of sets of vendors which meet the  
8        demanded capabilities;  
9                allowing a vendor to form a a coalition by dividing a received initial  
10        request for proposal into a plurality of sub-requests to be responded to by  
11        other vendors with no restriction on a number of levels of such divisions  
12        thereby creating a request for a proposal tree;  
13                managing the request proposal tree by controlling access to contained  
14        information;  
15                selecting ~~one or more~~ a preferred coalition from coalition alternates at  
16        each level of the request proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal  
17        from the generated plurality sets of vendors; and  
18                ~~selecting a preferred coalition from the coalition alternatives~~  
19        aggregating coalitions at all levels in the request for proposal tree to respond  
20        to the initial request for proposal.

2 (Canceled).

1        3 (Withdrawn). A coalition formation process for the dynamic alliance  
2        between multiple vendors in a marketplace comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a customer request for proposal;  
4 gathering requirements needed to respond to the request for proposal;  
5 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required  
6 to respond to the request for proposal;  
7 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a  
8 database;  
9 generating a shortlist of potential vendors;  
10 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the request for  
11 proposal;  
12 assessing by each invited vendor the request for proposal requirements  
13 and identifying additional capabilities required;  
14 decomposing by an invited vendor the request for proposal into a  
15 plurality of sub-request for proposals, the invited vendor becoming a customer  
16 submitting the sub-request for proposals;  
17 gathering requirements needed to respond to the sub-request for  
18 proposals;  
19 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required  
20 to respond to the sub-request for proposals;  
21 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a  
22 database;  
23 generating a shortlist of potential vendors to respond to the sub-request  
24 for proposals;  
25 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the sub-  
26 request for proposals;  
27 assessing by the vendor submitting the sub-request for proposals  
28 received from vendors;  
29 forming a coalition of vendors responding to the sub-request for  
30 proposals; and  
31 presenting a proposal to the customer.

1       4 (Currently Amended). A system for the formation of dynamic alliances  
2       between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific  
3       market opportunities comprising:  
4               means for receiving a an initial request for proposal from a customer;  
5               means for translating the request for proposal into demanded  
6       capabilities;  
7               a database storing registered vendor capabilities;  
8               means for accessing said database and matching demanded capabilities  
9       with registered vendor capabilities to generate a plurality of sets of vendors  
10      which meet the demanded capabilities;  
11              input means for accepting from registered vendors not having all  
12      demanded capabilities a coalition of vendors which meet demanded  
13      capabilities, said coalition of vendors being formed through creation of sub-  
14      requests by dividing the initial request for proposal and inviting other  
15      veondors to respond with no restriction on a number of levels of such  
16      divisions thereby creating a request for proposal tree;  
17              means for managing the request for proposal tree by controlling access  
18      to contained information;  
19              means for selecting ~~one or more~~ a preferred coalition from coalition  
20      ~~alternates from the generated plurality sets of vendors at each level of the~~  
21      request for proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal at that level;  
22      and  
23              means for aggregating coalitons at all levels in the request for proposal  
24      tree selecting a preferred coalition from the coalition alternatives to respond to  
25      the initial request for proposal.

5 (Canceled).

1        6 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, further comprising  
2        means for establishing access control privileges to coalition members of ~~the a~~  
3        coalition ~~structure~~, the access control privileges applying to sharing of  
4        common resources and services available to the coalition.

1        7 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, wherein the means  
2        for selecting selects members from vendors in the database and from  
3        coalitions formed by vendors in the database with other vendors not in the  
4        database.

1        8 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, further comprising  
2        means for providing common services to ~~coalition~~ members of a coalition.

1        9 (New). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2        establishing access control privileges to coalition members of a coalition, the  
3        access control privileges applying to sharing of common resources and  
4        services available to the coalition.

1        10 (New). The method recited in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting selects  
2        members from vendors in a database and from coalitions formed by vendors in  
3        the database with other vendors not in the database.

1        11 (New). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2        providing common services to members of a coalition.